

**PRONOSTIC MARKERS IN MICROCEPHALIC INFANTS AND CHILDREN IN THE MRI ERA**

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**OBJECTIVES:** To know what are the clinical markers of good and bad neurological prognosis in infants and children with microcephaly after a decade of spread use of MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging). **METHODS:** Head Circumference (HC) charts of 3269 patients visited between 1987 and 1997 in a regional reference neuropaediatric department were reviewed. All patients with at least one HC value below the 2 Standard Deviations for her/his age were included in a etiologic and pronostic study. We analyse how etiology of microcephaly, magnitude of microcephaly, presence of decelerations or accelerations and magnitude and age of decelerations influence the outcome in terms of intelligence, epilepsy, motor performance, and visual and hearing defects. **RESULTS:** We found 137 full studied microcephalic patients. **CONCLUSIONS:** We discuss what are the main markers to predict good and bad outcome in microcephalic patients. We propose different patterns of microcephaly on the grounds of its etiology, time of appearance, MRI lesions and head circumference kind of curve. This study lead us steps forward the substitution of the sign 'microcephaly' for the syndrome 'head growth failure'.

